

SEC BRIEFING

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21 December 1954

POLITICAL CRISIS IN GREECE

I. Anti-American rioting in all major cities of Greece, protesting US stand on Cyprus issue, is new evidence growing disintegration Premier Papagos' Rally government.

A. We inclined to be complacent about Papagos, who pro-US.

II. Actually, Papagos regime being steadily weakened by:

A. Defections major political figures from his party.

B. Defeat of Rally-linked candidates in six of seven major cities at last month's municipal elections.

C. Continued absence full support Fredericka. Palace now reported actively encouraging some opposition moderates.

III. Disintegration of Rally would not affect Greece's basic pro-Western orientation.

However:

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A. Return to pre-Papagos condition--

splintered parties--would mean further
instability.

B. Greece, now considered Western asset,
would become less reliable partner.

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